



THE RARA RAG

Newsletter of The Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Founded in 1931

FEBRUARY MEETING: THE LIPPMANN COLOR PROCESS – A UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHIC METHOD

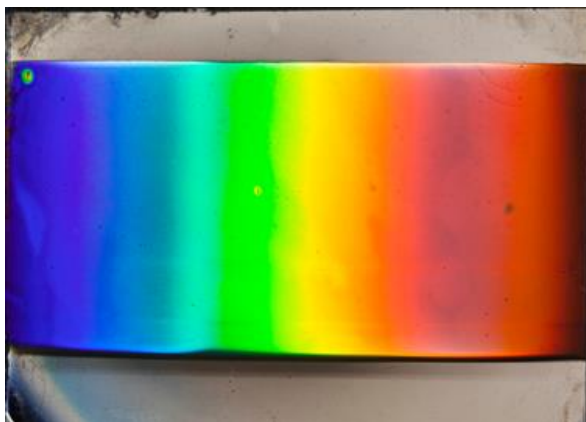
TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

We have an intriguing topic for our February presentation and I'm sure it will be of interest to all. Our speaker, Nick Brandreth is a new member of RARA and is very qualified to talk on photographic processes. He held the position of Historic Process Specialist at the George Eastman Museum for a decade and is a teaching artist who has done extensive research in historic and alternative photographic processes. He has developed diverse bodies of work using such techniques as dry plate glass negatives, handmade early-20th-century-era motion picture film, Lippmann color plates and holograms to name a few.

The Lippmann color process is the only naturally occurring color photographic process. There are no dyes or pigments in the plates. The color you see exists only when white light is broken down into its respective colors. Nick will discuss the history and theory of one of the rarest forms of photography and provide samples in person for everyone to enjoy. This might be the only time you'll ever get to see one in person. And I expect we will all learn what the pictures below signify!

Please join us on February 5th, the meeting starts at 7:00PM at the Boy Scouts Headquarters at 2320 Brighton Henrietta Townline Road, Rochester, New York 14623 or online by registering at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7713622070298476381>



K2JD

N2EH

W2EOC

FEBRUARY, 2025
VOLUME 79, ISSUE 6

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ANNOUNCEMENT - P. 3**

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RARA



BOARDZ BUZZ

SCOTT THEIS, W2LW, DIRECTOR AND WEBMASTER

It is an interesting coincidence that, upon starting this article, I went looking for a style template and by chance randomly picked up my Buzz article from October 2019. What is interesting is not the format but rather that some of the topics I was thinking of covering in this article were covered in that article as well.

With that in mind, and with my changing role from President to Director, this provides an opportunity to review some of the ideas within that article. The headline items were: Building a New Club Database, Marshalling Club Documents, and the Club Station. With a new year in full swing, it is an opportunity to regroup and prioritize. So, let's start by looking at some of these areas:

Building a New Club Database

Tim Barrett, K9VB, has been managing his duties using the equivalent of a file card index with a very modest web interface. In 2019 we undertook defining a new system. A lot of work was put into how such a system should operate and its requirements. Through many events and delays, it has been pushed down the priority list. In 2025, I hope the club will get this moving along with some changes to the website.

Speaking of the website, it has not had a major review since 2017, so it too needs some attention. One thing that would be very helpful is to have a formal web proofreader. Several members have sent errors and problems over the years, which is not a big deal, but I could use some help to do a full review.

Marshalling Club Documents

This is an area that has progressed nicely. Through the work of Tim Guyot, KB1POP, we have set up a new database of documents for officers and administrators on OneDrive. In addition, all critical club records have now been scanned and stored. The documents include incorporation information and 501(c)(3) application and approval.

Club Station

And the club station. This is a topic that got a lot of attention back in 2018-2020. I think we aired out a lot of issues and opinions. One of the items that fell out of this endeavor was the purchase of some equipment, including the Yaesu FT-710, which has received good use. It would be good to complete the document created through the work of the Club Station committee.

Into 2025...

After enjoying a spell of not having extra responsibility of President or Vice President, I am going to try to put effort into the technical aspects of supporting the club. To that end, by the time you read this article we will have had our first IT committee meeting to address some of the remaining technical and management challenges going forward.

Major areas of focus:

- Email System and Difficulties
- Web Server (Location, Site Maintenance, Page Ownership, Long Term Plans, Publishing Platform)
- Club Database/Member Service Access Development
- Club Documents and Management
- Club Computers and Software

We are fortunate to have had some new members volunteer to help or perhaps even lead development on some of these items. If you would like to help, please email me at sa_theis@hotmail.com.

We've come a long way since 2019! There is still a way to go, but I am confident we can reach our goals. All of these items can help us continue to push the club forward as a success for the members, the hobby, and the community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY FEB 5, 2025 - RARA Meeting In Person and On line 7:00 PM - at this link:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7713622070298476381>

THURSDAY FEB 13, 2025 - RARA Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 PM - Online
Email request for link to secretary@rochesterham.org

Saturday Feb 15, 2025 - RARA Winterfest
Stewart Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park
See article on page 11

Saturday June 21, 2025 - RARA Hamfest,
Barnard Fire Field, 410 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY 14616

2025 ROCHESTER HAMFEST - SAVE THE DATE, WE NEED YOUR HELP

TIM GUYOT, KB1POP, DIRECTOR

We're pleased to announce that we've selected a date and venue for the 2025 Rochester Hamfest. The event is returning to the Barnard Fire Field at 410 Maiden Lane Rochester, NY 14616, US on Saturday June 21st 2025.

What we need now is a committee of 2-4 people to produce the event. We have committee members returning from last year, but we could use more help to spread the work. Thanks to Anand Choudri KC2KPG, we have an easy to follow procedure that includes all the steps to put on a great hamfest. There are several steps to be taken between now and June 4th. **It is essential that we get started on some of these items within the month and we could really use your help!**

- Raffle and Prizes
- Publicity
- Exhibits
- Ticketing
- Parking
- Flea Market
- Facilities
- Food
- Talk-in
- Alternate Activities
- Exams

To be on the committee, you mostly need to be able to respond to e-mail, make a few phone calls, and attend about one committee meeting per month. If you're interested in being on the committee, please e-mail

hfproducer@rochesterham.org

In the spring, we'll ask for volunteers to help set up on 6/20 and run the event on 6/21



RARA MEMBERSHIP NEWS

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Membership currently stands at 413 and we would like to beat our total of 503 at the end of the previous year so please renew if you haven't done so yet!

If you are not sure of your membership status please take a moment to go to the [renewal page](#) on our website to check that your membership hasn't lapsed, and if it has you can renew from there. You can also join if you are not yet a member. The dues are still only \$15 or \$10 if you are a senior member or an Associate (i.e. have not yet got your license) Thanks again to all those who have renewed!

I'd like to give a warm welcome to recent new members:

Keturah Bixby, KE2EXI
Caroline Golum
Jim Hossenlop, KE2DJQ
Denise Kotalik
Jay Lemme
Jessica Parker
Adam Schwarzweller
Tom Schwarzweller
Redd Swindells, AI2N
Tom Tuzzeo
Lee Uehara

Remember to look for new members at RARA events and make sure to introduce yourself and welcome them to the club!

Listening to our new ARRL WNY Assistant Section Manager, Ev Tupis W2EV, at our January meeting reminded me that RARA subsidizes the membership fee for new ARRL members. If you have not yet joined the ARRL or have lapsed for more than five years, then you can join through RARA and enjoy a saving of \$20. Basically the ARRL encourages clubs to increase their ARRL membership by paying us \$20 for each new member. We pass that saving on directly to you. (Thanks to Chris Reich WB2DYJ for pointing out that the subsidy has increased from \$15 to \$20) Note this is only for new ARRL members, not for annual renewals. If you want to take advantage of the offer, please email me at the address below.

Tim Barrett, K9VB membership@rochesterham.org.





EDUCATION

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, Education Coordinator

RARA LICENSE COURSES

Karl Heinz Kremer, K5KHK, License Class Coordinator

License Classes

We started our Winter '25 license classes. Depending on how motivated you are to catch up with the rest of the class, it may not be too late to join our ongoing classes. Please let us know soon if this is something you are considering.

New Amateur Extra Question Pool

Since July 1st 2024, all Amateur Extra license exams are now using the new question pool, which means that you need the 13th edition of the ARRL License Manual to study for the test. Make sure you have the correct edition.

License Manuals

All current editions of the license manuals are available to our members at a discount for \$25. At this discount, we unfortunately cannot deliver, and you would have to pick up the manual. If you are interested, please send an email to education@rochesterham.org

I usually have some license manuals with me at official RARA events (e.g. the monthly meetings)), but just to make sure, please get in touch with me first so that I can bring enough books.

Passing the Torch

We've been looking for a coordinator for our RARA Academies for a long time, and we found somebody who is not only willing to take over the academies, but also serve as RARA Education Coordinator: Aaron Rombaut KE2DYI, who is a new ham is volunteering to take over these two roles. I will work with Aaron over the next few months to ensure a smooth transition. Please introduce yourself to

Aaron when you run into him, and thank him for volunteering. I will stay on to teach the license classes.

Save The Date

We are again working on providing an Operating Event for New(ish) hams in May, as we've done for the last four years. This year, it will be on May 10th, and we have booked the Pathfinder Shelter in Black Creek Park. If you are new to the hobby, or returned to the hobby after many years away, or if you just want to learn a new skill, please put this event on your calendar. More information will follow as we progress with our planning. If you are interested in presenting, teaching or demonstrating the one thing that every new ham should know (according to your own opinion), please let us know.

RARA ELMERS' CORNER

Suzanne Bishopp, W2SUZ

Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ

Elmers' Corner Coordinators

We started the new year with a fantastic Elmers' Corner in January. Lots of great questions, and lots of great answers were shared. We were having so much fun talking radio, we went over our 2-hour time slot!

If you want to join the fun and talk ham radio open up that computer and click that link!



Our next zoom session, February 1st, get answers to all of those burning questions you have, and have a great time. The meeting starts at 10am on zoom, the link is below, however, if you would like to get on my reminder email list, send me a quick note at elmerscorner@rochesterham.org. I don't send a lot of emails, just one a month reminding you about the zoom meeting, and I always provide the link so you have it one place.

If you are a new ham, or just getting back into the hobby, we are here to help. We've even helped experienced hams with questions. ALL are welcome!

Sometimes a question may require some background information, just email those questions to us ahead of the meeting so that we can prepare - elmerscorner@rochesterham.org

ELMERS' CORNER

1st Saturday of the month
September – May

Next Zoom Meetings:

February 1st **10AM-12PM**
March 1st

Join ELMERS' CORNER Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

[pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

Meeting ID: 834 8467 4667

Passcode:786545

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (New York)

+13126266799,,83484674667#,,,,*786545# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83484674667?pwd=MG5DZXd6SFovN3lXa0NNTzM5UnBLUT09)

MORSE CODE TRAINING

Dave Wilson, WA2HOY, RXCWG Coordinator

The RXCW Group assists Hams wanting to learn Morse Code or to develop their CW skills.

MORSE PRACTICE FOR ALL LEVELS ON ZOOM AND ON THE AIR

Tim Brown, WB2PAY, hosts Zoom code practice for all levels on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm. For On Air schedules contact Tim at tjbrown@rochester.rr.com

RXCWG INTERMEDIATE CW PRACTICE- 7:30pm Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09)

[pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79966212852?pwd=M0M1MlBmVTJkWVl0RjRLYXlhc3pOUT09)

Meeting ID: 799 6621 2852

Passcode: tpjz8e

W1AW On The Air CW Practice

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
9 AM		Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
4 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast
7 PM	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow
10 PM	Fast	Slow	Fast	Slow	Fast

<http://www.arri.org/w1aw->

SLOW - 5, 7 1/2, 10, 13 and 15 wpm

FAST - 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 wpm

FREQ(MHz) - 1.8025, 3.5815, 7.0475, 14.0475, 18.0975, 21.0675, 28.0675, 50.350, 147.555

RADIO ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Dave Carlson	N2OA	Batavia	kdcarlso@gmail.com
Lawrence Hill	N2AJX	Henrietta	lawrence.hill@rit.edu
Rich Hoffarth	K2AXP		rhoffarth2000@yahoo.com
Bill Kasperkoski	WB2SXY	Pittsford	wb2sxy@gmail.com
Don Kiser	AC2EV	N Greece	dkiser100@gmail.com
Karl Heinz Kremer	K5KHK	Chili	k5khk@khk.net
Tim Magee	WB2KAO	Greece	585-704-5747
Mike Moore	KC2NM		mikemoore@ieee.org
Peter Schuch	WB2UAQ	Perinton	pschuch@rochester.rr.com
Forest Shick	WA2MZG	Webster	fshick3@gmail.com
Dave Timmons	W2DST	N Greece	dstimmons@gmail.com
Steve Verzulli	KA1CNF		verzulli@yahoo.com
Dan Waterstraat	W2DEW	Henrietta	higreen@rochester.rr.com

CW ELMERS

Name	Call	Area	Email
Ned Asam	W2NED	Pittsford	w2ned@frontiernet.net
Tim Brown	WB2PAY	Ogden	tjbrown@rochester.rr.com
Reiner Dieg	N2PEZ		n2pez@arrl.net
Pete Fournia	W2SKY	Penfield	pfournia@gmail.com
Bill Hopkins	AA2YV	Brighton	whopkin4@naz.edu
Bob Karz	K2OID	Webster	rkarz@rochester.rr.com
Joe Rowe	AG2Y	Webster	ag2y@rochester.rr.com
Harry Williams	KF2TV	Kingsland, GA	harryw7872@gmail.com

JANUARY RAFFLE PRIZES

- **WORLD MAP**
- **BEER COZY**
- **SET OF 4 PL-258 BARREL CONNECTORS**
- **KOBALT 69 PIECE MAGNETIC MULTI BIT SCREW-DRIVER SET**

PUBLIC SERVICE REPORT

MIKE MOORE, KC2NM, PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATOR

Ham Operators Needed for Public Service Events in Rochester Community!

The Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RARA) is seeking enthusiastic members to provide essential communications support for upcoming public service events in the Rochester, NY, area. Public service is a vital part of amateur radio, and this is an excellent opportunity to use your skills while contributing to our community. These events will utilize VHF and UHF repeaters in the Rochester area for communications. You can find a list of upcoming events on the rochesterham.org Public Service page or see the table at the end of this article.

Why Volunteer for Public Service?

- **Community Impact:** By providing reliable communications, we ensure the safety of participants and staff at various local events.
- **Skill Enhancement:** Public service events offer valuable opportunities to improve your radio communication skills in structured and dynamic settings.
- **Teamwork and Camaraderie:** Work alongside fellow RARA members, building friendships and strengthening our club.
- **Fulfillment:** Experience the satisfaction of using your skills to make a positive difference in our community.
- **Practice for Emergencies:** Public service events provide opportunities to practice skills needed in an emergency.

Available Roles

We need volunteers for various roles, each critical to the success of these events. These include:

Fixed Location Roles:

- **Aid Station/Checkpoint Communicators:** Stationed at aid stations or checkpoints, you will relay messages regarding participant arrivals, supply needs, dropouts, and transportation requests to Net Control.
- **Course Monitors:** Monitor participant progress from specific locations and report to Net Control.
- **Net Control Operators:** Coordinate radio traffic, serve as a point of contact with event organizers, direct radio volunteers, and log all radio communications. Net Control may also monitor multiple frequencies.

- **Mobile Roles: Course Sweep Communicators:** Accompany event sweeps to ensure the safety of the final participants while maintaining communication with Net Control and fixed locations.
- **Course Hikers/Bikers:** Patrol the course to ensure the safety of all participants and report any issues encountered. These volunteers will check in with Net Control.
- **Radio Sag Communicators:** Provide on-course communications for bicycle events, riding with support vehicles, and checking in with Net Control and other fixed locations.
- **Radio-Equipped SAG or Patrol:** Drive support vehicles to assist participants, monitor rider safety, and act as course sweeps.

Additional Support Roles:

- **Ham Radio Team Captain:** Work with the event organizer to ensure volunteer operators have a handout with assignments and instructions, including an event description, required resources, volunteer requirements, and the locations, dates, and times needed.
- **Organization Representative:** Coordinate with the ham radio club representative. Prior to the event, assess the event area to determine the best repeater coverage and create a communication plan.

Training and Support

- **Orientation:** An orientation session is available for new and returning volunteers, consider pairing new and experienced operators.
- **On-the-Air Briefing:** A briefing is held before events to ensure everyone understands the procedures.
- **Standard Operating Procedures:** We will review standard ham radio operating practices and emergency communication protocols before the event.
- **Equipment:** You will need your radio (a handheld might be sufficient, but some locations may require a mobile radio with a gain antenna) and a spare battery. Also, bring personal gear such as food, water, and weather-appropriate clothing.
- **Communication Plan:** A communication plan will be provided, including designated frequencies, tactical call signs, and information about net control operations.
- **Training Resources:** RARA and the ARRL offer training opportunities for new and experienced amateur radio operators.

How to Sign Up

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Mike Moore, KC2NM, at mikemoore@ieee.org or sign up at our next monthly meeting. Your participation is crucial to the success of these events and strengthens our club's impact on the community. Remember, RARA provides free amateur radio licensing courses and free testing, making it easy for anyone to get involved!

2025 RARA Public Service Events

Event	Location	Day	Date
Tour de Cure	Stokoe Farms	Saturday	Jun. 7, 2025
Adirondack Expo	Mendon Ponds	Sunday	Jun. 14, 2025
MS Roc the Ride Great Lakes	Lakeside State Park	Saturday	Aug. 9, 2025
Mammoth March	Letchworth State Park	Saturday	Aug. 9, 2025
ILLW	Charlotte Genesee Lighthouse	Saturday - Sunday	Aug. 16, 17, 2025
Fairport Liftbridge Regatta	Perinton Park	Saturday	Sep. 20, 2025
Wilmot Warrior Weekend	Xerox Webster	TBD	TBD
JOTA and/or CTC	Camp Cutler Naples	Saturday	Oct. 18, 2025
Pumpkin Patrol	Overpasses of the New York State Thruway	Thursday - Friday	Oct. 30, 31, 2025
Maker Faire	Gordon Field House RIT?	Saturday	Nov. 15, 2025



JANUARY MEETING REVIEW: DEVELOPMENT OF THE TELEPHONE SERVICE 1875 - 1925

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

Our president Rich Bishopp, KD2UBJ and others took us through news and updates about the club. As always it takes a number of people to make the meeting run smoothly and thanks to all those who played a part. Despite the meeting being just after the holidays and a freezing cold snowy night there was good attendance of around 30 people at the BSA and a further 40 online.

We had an interesting announcement by long-term member Ev Tupis, W2EV. He has been appointed as ARRL Assistant Section manager for WNY alongside Scott Bauer the WNY Section Manager. Ev spoke briefly and said that his role was to find ways the ARRL can help local clubs, so if you have ideas, please let him know (W2EV@yahoo.com). Several of those present thanked Ev and we look forward to hearing more about the ARRL's activities.

The presentation was by me and was a continuation of a presentation I gave in December 2020 about the invention of the telephone. This time I covered the early development of telephone exchanges, both manual and automatic. It's a big and deep topic with many interesting turns so what I covered was only a small part. If you want to re-visit the presentations, the slides and notes are both on our [website](#), the first is under December 2020 and the second is under January 2025.



DON'T MISS OUT ON THE RARA WINTERFEST!

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

It's getting to the time for our annual Winterfest. This year we are back at our traditional location, Stewart Lodge at Mendon Ponds Park on Saturday February 15th. We start set-up at 10am ready to get going around 11am. It's a great location, the cabin is heated and warm, and there is plenty of space for antennas.

We will have door prizes and lots of food. If you can, please bring a crockpot of something warm, we will award a prize for the best contribution! We are also inviting everyone to bring a dessert to share. Even if you don't have an opportunity to make something please come along anyway, the more the merrier. RARA will provide soft drinks and all the cups, plates, napkins and silverware needed.

We will have the club radio set up but feel free to bring your own gear. And if you are a newly licensed radio amateur this is a great time to meet other hams and to get on the air yourself.

If you would like to help set up, then arrive around 10am otherwise we look forward to seeing you at 11 for food, friends and amateur radio!



RARA CALENDAR

TIM BARRETT, K9VB, RARA VICE PRESIDENT

February 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 VT, BC, MN QSO Parties LABRE-RS Digi Contest 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB Euro Union DX Contest F9AA Cup, CW Mexico RTTY Contest FYBO Winter QRP Sprint AGCW Straight Key Party
2 VT, BC QSO Parties LABRE-RS Digi Contest 10-10 Int Winter Contest SSB Euro Union DX Contest F9AA Cup, CW Mexico RTTY Contes NA Sprint, CW	3 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest RSGB 80M Club Contest SSB	4 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	5 RARA Monthly Mtg BSA & ONLINE 7pm ROC City Net ~3.830 MHz, 7pm A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon QRP UKEICC 80M Contest	6 ARES Net 146.610 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 50.205 USB Walk for the Bacon QRP NRAU 10m Activity Contest SKCC Sprint (Europe) NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test QRP Foxhunt	7 K1USN Speed Test	8 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party RSGB Topband Contest WAB !.8 MHz Phone CQC Winter QSO Party
9 CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest Dutch PACC Contest SKCC Sprintathon KCJ Topband Contest OMISS QSO Party Balkan HF Contest	10 ARRL School Club Roundup AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	11 ARRL School Club Roundup Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt DARC FT4 Contest NAQCC CW Sprint	12 ARRL School Club Roundup A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	13 ARRL School Club Roundup NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt	14 ARRL School Club Roundup K1USN Speed Test PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint	15 ARRL Int DX Contest, CW Feld Hell Sprint YLRL YL-OM Contest Russian PSK WW Contest Feld Hell Sprint
16 ARRL Int DX Contest, CW Feld Hell Sprint YLRL YL-OM Contest Russian PSK WW Contest	17 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest	18 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt	19 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80 Walk for the Bacon QRP	20 NTC QSO Party NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint QRP Foxhunt RSGB 80m Club Champ CW Walk for the Bacon QRP	21 K1USN Speed Test	22 CQ 160M Contest, SSB REF Contest, SSB NA Collegiate Contest, RTTY UBA DX Contest, CW SC QSO Parties NA QSO Party, RTTY WW Patagonia Contest
23 CQ 160M Contest, SSB REF Contest, SSB NA Collegiate Contest, RTTY UBA DX Contest, CW NC, SC QSO Parties NA QSO Party, RTTY High Speed Club CW Contest	24 AWA Net 145.110 MHz, 7pm VHF Group 9pm 144.260 SSB ICWC Medium Speed Test OK1WC Memorial WW Sideband Activity Contest QCX Challenge	25 Phone Weekly Test QRP Foxhunt SKCC Sprint	26 A1 Club AWT CWOps Test VHF/UHF FT8 Activity Contest Mini Test 40, 80	27 NCCC FT4 Sprint Weekly RTTY Test NCCC Sprint	28 K1USN Speed Test	

THE END-FED WORKS!

BILL HOPKINS, AA2YV/6

Hello Everyone. Sitting out on the veranda in the Southern California sun, visiting family. It's Thanksgiving but the temp is still livable at 57 degrees, clear blue sky, slight breeze aloft, and it promises to rise to 72F by afternoon here in Carlsbad. Private airplanes are already in the area, taking off and landing at the local Palomar Airport just for fun. In the neighborhood someone is playing "I'm so lonesome, I could cry," by Hank Williams.

A week ago I put up the antenna upon arrival. Two years ago I had a 40 meter dipole up 35ft – one end in the palm tree - with 300 ohm twin lead (39ft). It was a great antenna, nabbing Japanese stations! The neighbors cut down the back yard tree, and now I have to improvise. I brought along my collapsible 23ft fiberglass crappie pole and lashed it to a scrub bush up the hill behind the fence (an honorable 25ft high). This antenna is a 71ft end-fed using a 9:1 UNUN and a 17ft counterpoise (strung straight underneath the antenna out to a honeysuckle, and the feed point is at about 12ft at the end of 50ft of coax. This antenna went up a lot faster.

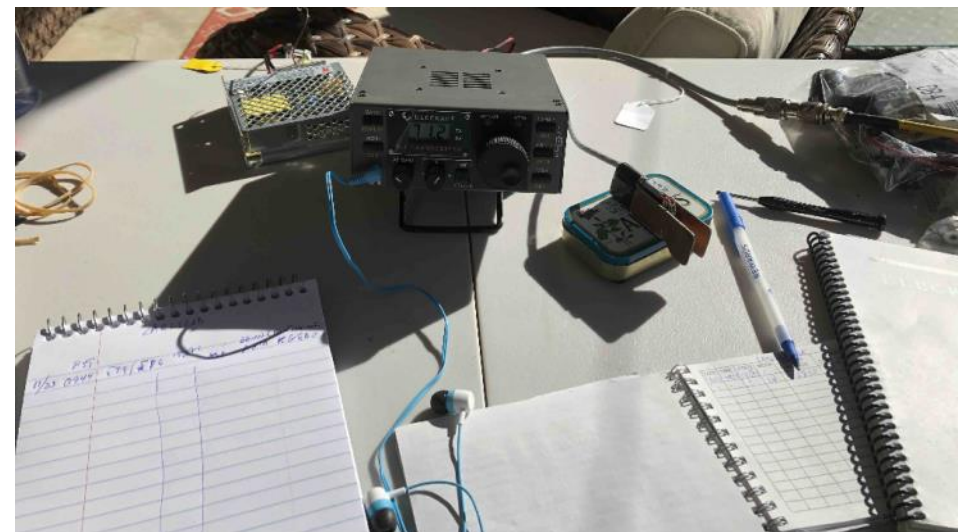
This is my first time out with an end-fed wire. The wire is #26 copper-clad steel, jacketed, from The Wireman; it's super light; the crappie pole bends only slightly. I wanted a 49:1 UNUN and ordered two toroids from Palomar Engineers (right up the road from here!) to roll my own, but they didn't arrive in time. I settled on the small 9:1 UNUN from my stash.

The power is from a Chinese mini switching supply to my Elecraft K-1 (7, 10, 14, 18 meters), the paddle homebrewed in an Altoids can with pennies as ballast. I hooked up the rig and got signals on 20 meters, lots of them. It was the CQ Worldwide CW contest, and I was now in Zone 3. My K-1 ATU worked like a charm at 6 watts. I cranked up the CW speed to keep pace and began answering CQs.

The first was with Tony, N7DX, from Camano Island, Washington. The fourth was with Einar, VE5MX/4, home QTH in Saskatchewan (His QRZ page has 130,000 hits!) I made QSOs across the south to FL and up into the Midwest. Then I heard a very loud signal. I tried and tried, but the big guns wouldn't let me in. It was the Red Star Contest Club from Bangkok, Thailand, zone 26. One can hope. Before the band went south, I heard Alaska and Hawaii, both 599, and several European stations.

I'm having daily success on 20 and 18 meters. 40 is noisy, maybe because of the antenna. Out here in the West - from British Columbia, to Colorado, to the Midwest - POTA is a big thing. Yesterday I bagged Pat, K7GUD a SOTA station sitting atop some peak in the western Rockies at 7586ft (look him up on QRZ). He's a big SOTA guy from Victor, Idaho.

The antenna comes down Tuesday and we'll be back in Rochester, just in time for me to fire up the snow blower. 73/72, All.



52 WEEK HAM RADIO CHALLENGE

KARL HENIZ KREMER, K5KHK, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Before we jump into the article, here is a quick update: This article should have appeared in the December '24 Rag, but due to a series of unfortunate events, we are trying again for the February issue. It is not too late to participate, you do not have to complete the individual challenges during the weeks they are listed for. And now, without further ado, here it is:

If you are a new ham, it's hard to figure out what to try and what to learn after passing the license test. If you are an old ham, it may be hard to find time to try new things.

A good way to learn a few new things is to participate in the "52 Week Ham Radio Challenge" in 2025.

Fabian Kurz, DJ5CW of LCWO.net fame (Learn CW Online) came up with a very exciting project for 2025: A weekly ham radio challenge with 52 things to accomplish. He put up a preliminary schedule that lists the different challenges. Details can be found here: <https://hamchallenge.org/>

Week	Type	Difficulty	Challenge	Details / Finished by
1			► Create a QSL card design!	0
2			► Monitor as many NCDXF IARU beacons in one week as possible	0
3			► Work another continent on 80m or 160m.	0
4			► Research the history of your callsign!	0
5			► Update your profile on QRZ.com, HamQTH.com, etc.	0
6			► Take part in a contest!	0
7			► Find out which DXpeditions are active this week.	0
8			► Encourage someone to take their ham radio license exam	0
9			► Try to work an FM repeater on 10m	0
10			► Listen to an amateur radio satellite	0

The screenshot above shows the first few of the challenges. There are simple ones like borrow a few crayons from your kids and come up with a QSL card design – or if you are more at home in the digital arena, fire up InDesign and do the same, but also more challenging ones as in work another continent on 80 or 160m.

The challenges are categorized as "fun", "radio", "social", "homebrew" or "computer", and are rated by their difficulty.

There is a good chance that quite a few of the challenges will be new terrain for most of us, and some of them may even make you do things you never thought you would even try

You do not need to do this all on your own: Find somebody you can work with, somebody who already knows how to do some of these things and can teach you, or attempt the whole challenge as a group. You also don't need to own all the equipment needed for the whole project: Borrow some items from friends or use a WebSDR receiver to receive frequencies that your equipment may not cover. There is no right or wrong way to learn – as long as you walk away knowing more than you did at the beginning of the year.

You don't even have to finish the challenges in the specified order. There might be propagation issues during certain weeks that will make it impossible to finish a task – put it off until later and tackle something else instead.

And finally, you don't have to commit to doing all 52 weeks: Pick a few things that you've never tried before, things that you always wanted to learn more about, or just things that sound interesting and work on those. You can use the list of 52 challenges as a source of ideas about what to try next.

When you make your New Year's resolutions, maybe add a "I will learn something new every week" to your list – and stick with it.

PAUL CONAWAY, KD2DO

The screenshot displays the Wireshark network protocol analyzer interface. The top status bar indicates the file is 'Pcap v0.2.0.5 / EpcA1 - IC-7380 - 42300'. The menu bar includes 'File', 'Op Mode', 'Configure', 'View', 'Logbook', and 'SHD'. The top toolbar contains buttons for 'Open', 'Save', 'Print', and various filters. The main display area shows a packet list with 10 packets, a packet details pane showing 'Read macros from: C:\Users\jadmin\Documents\macros\ABEMS_2018.11.17.mif', and a packet bytes pane showing a hex dump of the packet data.

There are built in forms for radiograms, ICS, Red Cross, and Daily Shelter Reports, severe weather reports, etc., and a way to make custom forms for your own organization or location. An example is:

Green (Functional)	Area is functioning in all aspects and is expected to continue functioning.
Yellow (Degraded)	Area is functioning at full or degraded level. It may now or soon be degraded.
Red (Disabled)	Area is not functioning. It could possibly be made to function given resources.
Black (Destroyed)	Area is destroyed, Non functional, and cannot be made to function.
Grey (N/A)	Not applicable. This area is not normally supported by this hospital.
White (Blank)	Information on this area was not obtained in a timely manner and is not available.

	Functional	Degraded	Disabled	Destroyed	(n/a)	(blank)	
Emergency Dept.	●	●	●	●	●	○	HVAC

NUMBER	PRECEDENCE	HX	STATION OF ORIGIN	CHECK	PLACE OF ORIGIN	TIME FILED	DATE
	ROUTINE						
TO				THIS RADIO MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AT			

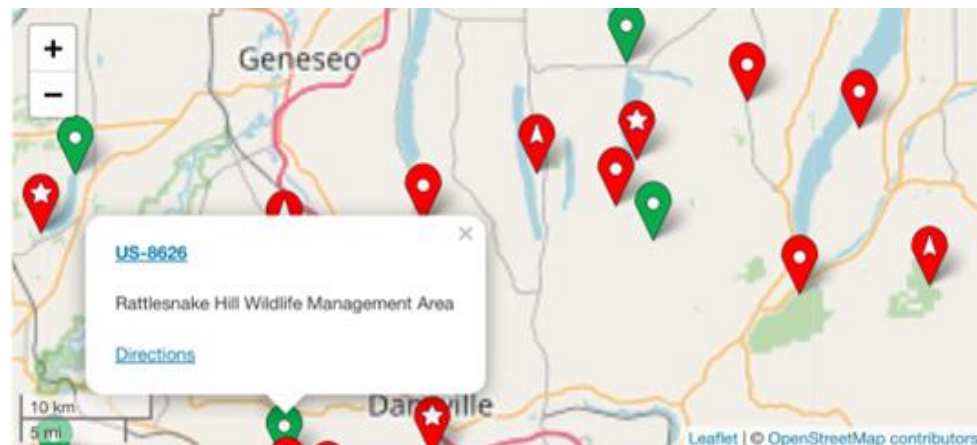
PAGE | 15

POTA SPOTTING VIA LOW EARTH ORBIT

KARL HENIZ KREMER, K5KHK, EDUCATION COORDINATOR

For way too long, I have had the “Working from 200 different units” awards dangling in front of my face: I was at 197. Only three more! Sunday 11/3/24 was a beautiful day with nothing else to do, so I was planning to hit the road. I needed three parks that I had not yet activated and I wanted to them to be relatively close to each other.

A while ago, I created a web page that takes my activation stats from the POTA site and marks entities in New York with different colors and symbols. I looked at the map and found the three closest entities that would not require “special equipment” like a boat.



The first one on the list was Honeye Creek Wildlife Management Area - US-9032 - followed by Honeye Inlet Wildlife Management Area - US-8642. These two are close to each other. My third planned park was about an hour away from the second stop: Rattlesnake Hill Wildlife Management Area - US-8626.

On the Road

I got on the road a little later than planned - this was the day after changing the clocks back to standard time and I wanted to have plenty of daylight left.

At the first stop, everything went smoothly. I put up my 31ft Jackite mast with the 30.5ft random wire going to a 9:1 LDG Unun and a 1:1 LDG choke. The coax then goes to a LDG AT-200Pro II tuner and my Yaesu FT-857D dialed down to 5W. This is my standard configuration when I am operating from the car.



This was my first outing with a new key: The Putikeep Ministraight key

I started by looking for active spots on 40m and found one, a minute later, I had KD3D in the log. I looked for a free frequency, spotted myself and finished with 13 contacts in my log about half an hour later.

After a 10 minute drive, I set up at my second location. The little wrinkle in my plan here was that I had no cell coverage to spot myself. My last spot from the earlier park was less than 30 minutes ago, so if I would have called CQ without a new spot, I would have been re-spotted at my previous park. Not what I wanted.

Satellites to the rescue!

The recently released iOS version 18 came with a new feature: Apple has supported making emergency calls via low earth orbit (LEO) communication satellites since the iPhone 14, but until recently, this was reserved for contacting emergency services. With iOS 18, this feature was extended to text messages - both SMS and iMessages.

When no cell coverage is available, the top of the phone's screen shows "SOS" and a picture of a satellite:



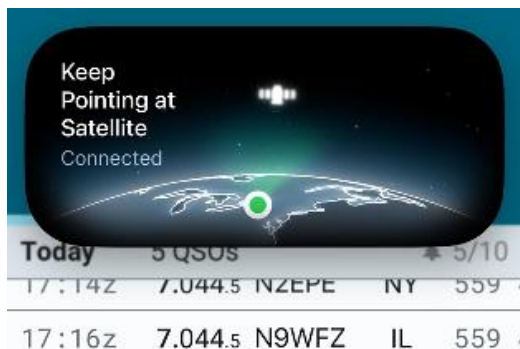
So how does one spot via this satellite connection?

The APSPOT service (<https://apspot.radio>) got its name from spotting via APRS, but has since added Winlink and SMS spotting.

In preparation for a situation like this, I had tried a test spot via APSPOT and SMS a few weeks before, just to make sure it worked, and the last time I was without cell service, I tried sending a message via the iPhone's satellite feature. This feature only becomes available when there is no cell service.

Today, I was ready to put these two things together and spot myself.

Sending a text via the satellite is not as straight forward as via a cell tower: The phone "knows" where the satellites are and instructs the user to point the phone the right way.



I queued up my text, waited until communications with the satellite were established and then sent the text.

To spot an activation with a text message, the format required is this:

"!<Callsign> <Activity> <Ref> <Frequency In MHz> <Mode> <Comment (Optional)>"

In my case, I used the following string:

!K5KHK POTA US-8624 7.0445 CW

This resulted in the downswing reply after a while (keep that phone pointed at the satellite as it moves across the sky):

SUCCESSFULLY SPOTTED FOR US-8624 TO pota.app

And sure enough, my CQ calls got answered.

This new feature is free to use for now. Apple just invested \$1.1 billion into Globalstar's satellite network (<https://www.streetinsider.com/dr/news.php?id=23913530>), that's probably a pretty good indication that they are planning to eventually make a buck or two from this service.

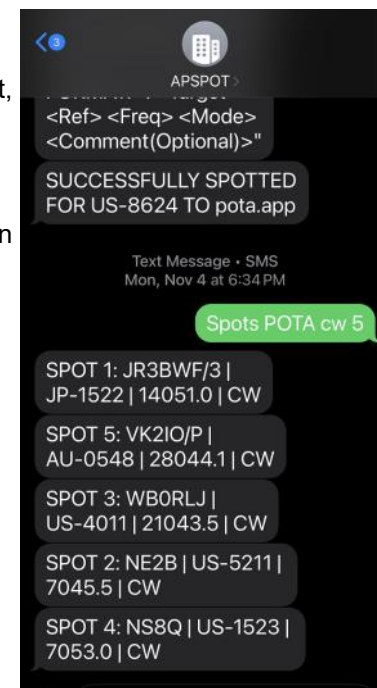
Using the iPhone to follow a satellite is pretty easy, the phone will prompt which way to turn, and the image at the top of the screen shows how well the phone is pointed towards the satellite.

Getting Spots

APSPOT does not just allow an activator to spot, but also provides a way to get spots:

Spots POTA cw 5

This command will return five CW POTA spots in five separate texts->



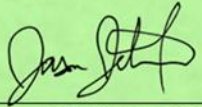
So, back to my activation: I finished my second activation of the day with 13 QSOs, five on 40m and eight on 30m.

Enrubio



That
Karl Heinz Kremer
K5KHK
has submitted proof of activating
200 unique reference areas
in the Parks on the Air program,
this certificate is hereby
presented in recognition of this
outstanding achievement.

200 *Activator Award*



Jason Johnston, W3AAX, POTA Coordinator

11/04/2024
Date

Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services via Wiki Commons

NEWS FROM AREA CLUBS

MONROE COUNTY ARES / RACES News

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)® is an amateur radio public service organization based in Monroe County, New York, and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators. Monroe County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) is a program of the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management. We participate in training and emergency exercises so that we can serve other agencies during times of communication failure.



The Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month except in July, August, November and December. The meeting in November is on the third Thursday to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving. Anyone interested, members and non-members, are welcome to attend. The meetings are in person at 6:00 PM at the county EOC in even months and at the Red Cross in odd months. They are also available via Zoom. Please check our website for any schedule changes. Prospective members can request an invitation by email to: secretary@monroecountyemcomm.org.

Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, on the W2ARM 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PL and 444.45 MHz (+) 110.9 Hz PL repeaters. Our club callsign is WB2EOC. On nights when we hold our regular meeting, the net is at 5:30 PM.

Web: www.monroecountyemcomm.org

Facebook: Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc.

Twitter @MCARESNY

ROCHESTER DX ASSOCIATION, RDXA

Please check our website www.rdxa.com for up-to-date information regarding meeting locations and requirements, if any.



XRX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The XRX Amateur Radio Club is meeting quarterly at the Webster Recreation Center. Dates, time, and Zoom meeting info, when available, is sent out to our mailing list. How to subscribe and up-to-date information is always on our website at <http://xarc.us>. We have a System Fusion repeater south of the city on 145.290, and another on 444.825 west of the city. An XLX reflector, XLX927, and YSF Reflector 00927 are typically bridged to the 145.29 machine, as well as Wires-X Room 21704. The system is DMR capable pointing your hotspot to XLX927.

AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN TIER, ARAST

ARAST meets the third Thursday of every month at the Emergency Communications Center on Harris Hill in Big Flats, next to the National Soaring Museum. Our Chemung County ARES (CCARES) organization meets the first Tuesday of the month at the same location. Both organizations serve amateurs in Chemung County and the surrounding counties in New York and Pennsylvania. All are welcome to attend our meetings, which begin at 7 p.m. All monthly meetings are held both in person and on Zoom.

Don't forget to check out our repeaters when you visit the area. N3AQ 147.36(+) and the W2ZJ 146.70(-) are the principal 2-meter repeaters, both with a PL of 123.0. The latter can also be accessed via Echolink node 574415 with the call sign KD2QND-R. A full list of repeaters in the Twin Tiers area can be found at http://www.arast.info/arast_website/public/repeaters.php.

We also invite you to check out our 6-meter net on Wednesday evenings at 9 p.m. local time on 50.200 MHz USB. We welcome participation from RARA members.

COMMUNITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, CARC

If you are interested in being a part of this forward thinking and active club, visit us at a meeting or join us on one of our weekly nets. We meet at the Hoag Library (134 S. Main St. Albion, NY) on the first Saturday of each month at 7PM. Each meeting has a brief training/refresher period with upcoming topics including: net protocol, repeater set-up/maintenance, and digital signaling. The club holds a net every Sunday evening at 8pm (winter) and 9PM (summer) - 0100 UTC Monday - on 147.585 simplex, and we host the Thursday Night Social Net, Thursday at 8:30PM on 147.285+. We'd love to hear you check-in!

DRUMLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Drumlins Amateur Radio Club meets every third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Wayne County EMO/Sheriff's Office 7376 State Hwy 31 #1000, Lyons, NY 14489. Doors open at 7 pm, meeting starts at 7:30 pm. Announcements will be made on the 146.685 repeater. The Drumlins ARC website address is <http://drumlinsarc.us/>

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION OF PERINTON, DCAP

DCAP members continue to experiment with leading edge digital communication modes. We were formed in 1994 to foster the development of local and regional packet radio networks using AX25 and TCP/IP. Today we have members using the club sponsored DSTAR repeater (KB2VZS on 444.8MHz), several personal and publicly accessible DSTAR hotspots, Yaesu System Fusion systems on non club repeaters and DMR systems through repeaters and personal hotspots. DCAP members meet for breakfast at 7AM nearly every Saturday morning at Rikki's Family Restaurant in the village of Fairport and everyone is welcome to join us. Talk in is on the KB2VZS analog repeater on 146.715MHz with a PL tone of 110.9Hz.

KEUKA LAKE AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, KLARA

Our meetings are always the 2nd Wednesday. Dish to pass meal at 6pm with meeting at 7pm. All are welcome.

Don't forget our daily Monday thru Friday 75 meter HF net. Check in at 7:45am starts 8:00 am on 3.896. Always a great way to start your day.

73, Belinda KD2BPJ

ORLEANS COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Orleans County ARC meets every 2nd Monday of the month at the Orleans County Emergency Operations Center, 14064 West County House Road, Albion, NY 14411. Doors open at 6:00PM, meeting starts at 7:30PM. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is welcome. Program topics vary from month to month.

The club has an open two-meter net every Tuesday night at 9:00PM local time on the club repeater, WA2DQL/R (145.27 -600KHz offset, 141.3 tone). Everyone is welcome to check in.

See the club website <http://ocarc.us> or contact club Secretary Ron Craig, N5BNO for more information.

ROCHESTER VHF GROUP

You are invited to
join us on-line &
on-the-air! We're
here to help you to
use the license that
you worked so hard to get.



Check out what we do by visiting our
website at <http://RVHFG.org> to start.

Join our e-mail group by sending a message
to RVHFG+subscribe@groups.io.

Join our weekly on-the-air nets on SSB:
2 meter band - Monday 9 PM 144.260 USB
6 meter band - Thursday 9 PM 50.205 USB

No VHF SSB radio (yet) to join the nets?
Log-in to Echolink ka2ene-L #23426

We can help to answer the question, "What radio
should I buy?" Here's a list of HF+++ radios, those
with the HF bands and at least three VHF bands,
giving you access to all sorts of VHF fun. Research
each one to see which serves you best. Ask
questions on our email list. We're here to help!

Yaesu FT-100D	Yaesu FT-817	Yaesu FT-818
Yaesu FT-847	Yaesu FT-857	Yaesu FT-897
Icom IC-706MKIIG	Icom IC-7000	Icom IC-7100
Icom IC-9100	Kenwood TS-2000	

Some are older models and some are newer models,
but all provide access to the 6 meter, 2 meter, and
70 centimeter bands using both traditional FM and
the exciting narrow-band SSB mode that supports
unexpectedly long-distance (100's of km's routinely
and 1,000's of km occasionally) VHF communication.
These are good all-around radios no matter what
club you end up affiliating with later. We hope its us.

SKENOH ISLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, SIARC

The Skenoh Island Amateur Radio Club and meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility, 2914 County Road 48, Town of Hopewell. We have License Exam Testing every other month which begins at 6:30PM. The next meeting will be our annual February 12th. There will not be license testing in February

SIARC is also holding a Health and Welfare NET Monday through Friday each week at 2000 hours on the SIARC 146.820 repeater (located in Canandaigua, NY), Tone 110.9. This net is to pass along general information and keep hams in touch. All hams are invited to participate.

73's
Steve Benton
WB2VMR
Ontario County RACES
Radio Officer
ARES Emergency Coordinator

ROCHESTER RADIO REPEATER ASSOCIATION

The current club officers are Bob Odell, N2BZX - President, Bob Shewell, N2HJD - Vice President, Jay Stewart, W4JPS - Secretary, and Jerry Powell, KC2YSY - Treasurer / Membership Chairman. RRRA also accepts donations to the club. If you are not currently a member and want to support RRRA, you can join at our monthly meeting or on our web site using PayPal. www.k2rra.org

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

Originally written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS:

CONSIDERATE	Never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
LOYAL	Offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local club, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
PROGRESSIVE	With knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station and operation beyond reproach.
FRIENDLY	With slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
BALANCED	Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
PATRIOTIC	With station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

RAGS OF THE PAST

ED GABLE, K2MP, RARA HISTORIAN

20 Years Ago – January 2005

The first meeting announcement for 2005, written by the usual combined task of Program Chairman and RARA Vice-President Tim Magee WB2KAO, assisted by Larry Wallnau W2ZEY, where they told of a very interesting topic offered by a true professional. The subject was QRP operation and the professional presenter was the popular Dr. Bill Hopkins PhD, AA2YV, Professor of German, Nazareth College. Bill's informative and entertaining style delighted all attendees as he covered the hardware of QRP and QRPP at the 250 Milliwatt level, but also shared his sharp operating skills which are demonstrated each time he's on-the-air using low power. Then, we heard from Bill himself in a sidebar he titled "*QRP Madness in January*" where he regaled us with a story of operating QRP under the L train in Chicago with challenging conditions.

In a special offering, go read this on the RARA website to appreciate the full effort of Brad Allen KB2CHY, who wrote a heartfelt obituary on his friend and long time RARA Supporter Ray Pickens (sk) WA2MYG. Brad's full page column told of Ray's early contributions with supporting the 28/88 repeater locally to his final and most memorable position as Director of RARA's Licensing Classes. He was recognized by receiving RARA's first ever "Ham of the Year" award in 1993.

Readers of this issue were introduced not to a new club contributor, but to an old-time ham with a new job, wrote your new Rag Editor Dick Goslee (sk) KG2I. Dick was eager to get into the job and urged all readers to contribute in any way they felt comfortable with.

The very often heard from RARA contributor Peter Fournia W2SKY, took pen in hand yet again with an unusual offering of a Job Opening announcement. Cleverly written and making the reader think "yes, I can qualify for that," the post concluded with the job definition disclosed as that of a Director of the Rochester Amateur Radio Association. Why the Board has openings mid-season was not disclosed but the offering is enticing, despite the low pay scale!

An interesting new idea was proposed by writer Don Dunn AB2NM, who posted a question to all members regarding a proposed bus trip to the then hugely popular Dayton, Ohio Hamvention. For individual hams, or a small group of friends in a single car, the trip was long and difficult for many and often took more than one day. Don researched commercial bus availability and came up with a trip, for \$70.00 per person, that would be one day out, a day at the Hamvention, and then a sleepy day returning to Rochester in the wee hours of the morning. No commitment, but do let Don know if interested, was the final message. BTW, the Rochester hamfest was scheduled for June 3-4-5, 2005.

The Rochester DX Association (RDXA) was on board where we heard from Paul Mackanos K2DB, who wrote to announce their next meeting. Speaking to the group would be member Jeff Ach W2FU. Jeff, founder of the relatively new

Green Heron Engineering company, would speak on their new offering of a universal digital rotor controller that had unique remote PC control options. RDXA meetings at that time were held at the Gander Mountain Sporting goods store on Jay Scutti Blvd.

With regret we found Bill DeWitt W2DD, Ray Pickens WA2MYG and John Levis KB2FXI, listed as Silent Keys in this issue. Bill DeWitt is remembered as an early ham in the Rochester area and notably as an early leader in Slow Scan Amateur Television and later for introducing color slow scan to the air waves. From the Want Ads you could buy an Alinco 580-T dual band handheld for \$100.00 from Charlie Bonfiglio KB2ZF1. Howard Greenwald AB2HD, Patent Attorney, is offering free Patent Consulting Services to members.



the **RARA RAG**

Published by

ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL. 57

JANUARY 2005

NO. 5

QRP Madness in January

By Tim Magee, WB2KAO
Larry Wallnau, W2ZEY

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV, will head an exciting multi-presenter QRP program at the January general membership meeting. Bill will show us why QRP has been an ongoing part of amateur radio. For many hams, Bill explains, QRP ops have been a lifetime pursuit.

Bill will discuss the equipment commonly used for low-power operation, such as homebrew Tuna Tin rigs and retail kits like the Sierra Norcal and Elcrafft. One of Bill's favorite homebrew rigs is based on the Tuna Tin 2. The '2' designates the number of transistors in this little brute. He modified his Tin so that it is now a 2 + 1, having an extra transistor which is part of the keyer circuitry. This rig puts out 250 MW. Bill was using it during a QSO with a ham in Texas. He also will discuss building and troubleshooting QRP rigs. Pamphlets will be provided with schematics and websites for kits.

One of the interesting possibilities with QRP is that the pint-sized equipment can be readily packed and set up in a jiffy when traveling. (See the Sidebar containing Bill's email confirming just such a QSO.)

Perhaps most important, there will be QRP demonstrations for PSK, CW, and SSB. Rigs will be set up and volunteers at other QTHs will be prepared to respond.

If you own QRP equipment, bring it to the meeting. Bill hopes to have time for "show-and-tell." If you are not going to fire up your rig, and plan to have it at the meeting for display only, then you might want to put a "Please Do Not Touch" sign on your equipment.

Peter Fournia, W2SKY, and Jon Dickason, N2JAC, will present an unusual high-tech demonstration. They are keeping a lid on the nature of their presentation, so bring a hardhat, a lead barrier, and iodine tablets.

Finally, in a generous gesture, Bill Hopkins will sponsor a raffle of QRP equipment and books.

Sidebar – *QRP Madness in January*

QRP, Chicago

Bill Hopkins, AA2YV

December 2004; Dear Pat, KI5CT in Onida SD,

Am sending this short note along with my QSL card cuz I thought you'd like to hear about my setup. I was operating QRP portable from the second story of a new brick apartment building in Chicago, right off of Western and Milwaukee Avenues about 5 miles west-northwest of the city center. (The Sears tower and all the other bigger buildings were easily visible from the roof.

(QRP continued on Page 3)

SILENT KEYS

William H. DeWitt, W2DD
November 22, 2004

Raymond R. Pickens, WA2MYG
November 24, 2004

John E. Levis, KB2FXI
December 3, 2004

RaRa MEETING

January 7, 2005
7:30 P.M.

Henrietta Fire Hall
3129 East Henrietta Road
QRP Madness

"Packet Radio – An Update," was the headline written by Ron Jakubowski K2RJ, RARA V-P, to introduce the topic for the January meeting. The term update referred to the recently held December 1984, RARA meeting hosted by Kodak Park, where Ray Williams WA2RYT, introduced that very topic. The January meeting continued the subject and also introduced a new Rochester area Amateur organization calling themselves the Rochester Amateur Packet Society (RAPS). Representing RAPS and presenting at this meeting was Richard Groth WB2NBU, who told of equipment needed and attachment methods to your two-meter FM radio. Richard also published a well written informational article in this issue he titled "What the Heck is Packet Radio and Why do I Need It?"

Readers heard from the Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA) telling of the status of the on-going fund-raising project to enhance the then popular 28/88 repeater. The end goal was to have enough funds to purchase a RC-850 Repeater Controller to replace the original home brew very basic unit built by Charlie Mills K2LDU, in the early days of Rochester area repeaters.

Sharing front page prominence was an invitation by David Bernheisel N2DPF, RARA Director, to all members to attend the first ever event of the RARA Winter Family Funfest scheduled for February 9th at Mendon Pond Park, Noon 'til six. David was eager to make sure all attendees had a good time and were not at a loss of hot FOOD and DRINK served all day. You could keep busy, too, with cross-country skiing and sledding or if inside fire-warming fun is your game sit by the fire and do what hams do well, chatter away! Oh, yes, did I mention a dessert making contest? Two dollars per person or five dollars per family was the bargain price.

If you wanted to overdose on ham radio activities, look at the January 1985, RARA ham activity calendar featuring: Jan 4, RARA Mtg, Jan 9, RARA Directors meeting at home of N2BNE, Jan 10, RAPS meeting, Jan 11, Rochester VHF Group, 111 Westfall, Jan 12, Licensing Exams, 111 Westfall, Jan 12, ARRL VHF Sweepstakes Contest, Jan 15, RDXA Meeting, Empire Blvd and in closing the month, Jan 18, the RRRA Mtg, Pittsford Town Hall.

This was a "short" issue of the Rag with notably way too much fill material from outside ham organizations and news groups that this writer (Yep, me, Ed) does not cover. Good news though was that there were no Amateur silent key notices. There was a death notice, however, going out to a non-ham yet a person heavily involved, day by day, directly with ham radio on-air activities. That person was Richard Schoenberger, Superintendent of Public Safety Communications, Monroe County, New York. Richard was a huge supporter of Ham radio usage within the county communications systems and was always giving credit to hams for their effectiveness in providing much needed communications.



the RARA RAG

Published by
ROCHESTER AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOL 37

JANUARY 1985

NO. 5

PACKET RADIO – AN UPDATE AT JANUARY 4th RaRa MEETING

by Ronald Jakubowski, K2RJ

Switching node; teleport station; AX.25 link layer protocol – These are some of the buzz-words of the most exciting new mode of communications to hit ham radio since slow-scan TV. Packet radio will revolutionize the way we handle traffic not unlike the way the electronic keyer revolutionized CW. Since Ray Williams, WA2RYT, spoke to us last December at Kodak Park, Packet radio (and packet data transmission in general) has been expanding its horizons by leaps and bounds.

At this month's RaRa meeting (8 p.m., Friday, January 4th at the 40/8 Club, 933 University Avenue), some members of the newly-formed Rochester packet group will present an update and a demonstration of Packet Radio. This group is so new that it doesn't even have a name yet! I'm sure they will put on an entertaining and informative program.

RRRA NEWS

Funds are slowly being raised for the RC-850 repeater controller for 28/88. Our goal is to have enough to get the basic unit by late spring or early summer. This means that we need a donation from each and every repeater user.

What will the new controller mean to you?

- A "smart" autopatch that will give hand-held coverage to most of the area.
- Expanded "Fuzz-Buzz" capability.
- Mailbox – Leave messages for your friends.
- Tail Messages – Learn of meetings, special events.

- Special net and weather alert modes.
- Extended control capabilities for Teleconference Nets, Westlink Radio Network, remote voting receivers, etc.
- And much, much more!

We need your help to bring the 28/88 machine into the 1980's. Bring your tax-deductible donation to the RRRA meeting at Pittsford Town Hall January 18th at 8:00 p.m., or mail it to RRRA, Inc., P.O. Box 92031, Rochester, NY 14692.

WINTER FUNFEST FEBRUARY 9th AT MENDON PONDS PARK

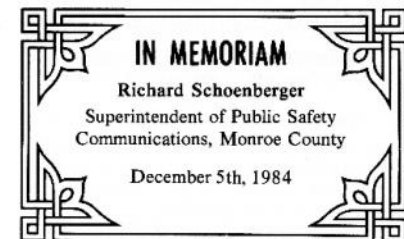
by Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF

The first annual RaRa Winter Family Funfest will be held Saturday, February 9th, at Mendon Ponds Park (Hopkins Point Lodge). We have reserved a lodge and have planned an enjoyable event for everyone. The fun begins at 12 noon and doesn't stop until 6 p.m. Hot food will be served all afternoon and hot beverages will be available at all times.

In addition to cross-country skiing, sledding and other outdoor activities, there will be plenty of room inside for visiting with old friends and making new acquaintances by the fire. (Maybe we can have a Trivial-Pursuit tournament.)

There will be a dessert-baking contest with prizes awarded to the winning entries. So plan to bring some type of baked 'goodie' (cookies, cakes, pies, rolls, etc.) to enter in the contest and to share with everybody when the judging is over.

The cost for this Funfest will be only \$2 per person, up to a maximum of \$5 per family. If you plan to attend, please make your reservations by January 27th. Please tell us how many people in your family (including yourself) will be attending by sending a QSL card or post card with your name and call to: RaRa Winter Funfest, P.O. Box 1388, Rochester, NY 14603-1388, or by calling Dave Bernheisel, N2DPF, at 244-1856. Do not send any money with your reservation. The fee will be payable at the Funfest. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



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MARCH RAG DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

RARA MEETS AT 7PM ON THE FIRST

WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

JOIN US IN PERSON

OR

ONLINE AT:

[HTTPS://ATTENDEE.GOTOWEBINAR.COM/
REGISTER/7713622070298476381](https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7713622070298476381)

CONTACT WEBMASTER@ROCHESTERHAM.ORG FOR SUPPORT

Rochester Area Repeater Listing

THE RARA RAG

Published by

Rochester Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY, 14692-8333

Hotline – (585) 210- 8910

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